



Halton Strategic Partnership Board – 17th May 2006

Presentations

The Board received presentations from Gill Mortlock of Jobcentre Plus about 'Pathways to Work', and from Brian Dowds about Halton's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

Safer and Stronger Communities Fund

The Fund brings together several funding streams from the Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The Partnership endorsed Halton's Safer and Stronger Communities Fund agreement and took note of the changed grant arrangements that are now in place - with Halton Borough Council as the accountable body.

Annual Review

Government Office North West carries out a performance review of the Partnership every year. This year's meeting will take place on the 21st June, and the Partnership's completed self-assessment form was endorsed. Further comments and additional supporting evidence were invited from the Board.

Local Area Agreements

A Local Area Agreement is a 3 year agreement that sets out the priorities for a local area, agreed between central government and a local area, represented by the lead local authority and other key partners through local strategic partnerships.

The Government sees this approach to service improvement as the way forward, and Halton needs to have an Agreement in place by April 2007. A working group has been set up, and an event for partners is planned for the 12th July to take it forward.

Specialist Strategic Partnership Action Plans

The Board endorsed the remaining three Specialist Strategic Partnership Action Plans – this now means that a full set of approved plans are in place for the themed partnerships.

Partnership Governance Update

Terms of Reference were agreed for the new Specialist Strategic Partnerships and Performance and Standards Group. This completes the revised Partnership Governance Arrangements endorsed at the last meeting.

Community Empowerment Network Report

Andy Guile is stepping down as Chair of Halton Together to take up the post of Executive Officer at Halton Voluntary Action, with responsibility for the Community Empowerment Network.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Report

The Partnership has achieved full spend of our allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund for 2005-06. The new Performance Management Group has now met and will monitor the performance of projects over the coming year.

Date of next meetings

12th July 2006

13th September 2006